

September 27, 1950.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dean C. A. Elvejhem,
Graduate School,
Bascom Hall.

Dear Dr. Elvejhem:

I am writing to ask your consideration of the possibility of inviting to this campus an unusually worthwhile addition to the Faculty in the person of Dr. Roger Y. Stanier, who is now Associate Professor of Bacteriology at the University of California, Berkeley. This past summer, I took leave from Wisconsin to teach a special course on microbial genetics in that department, and had the opportunity to spend several weeks in intimate association with Dr. Stanier in the classroom, laboratory and office. Stanier has a breadth of interest and insight into microbiology and biochemistry which very impressive. When I learned that he might be available, it immediately occurred to me that the University of Wisconsin should consider very seriously the possibility of bringing him to Madison.

The question is bound to come up as to Stanier's reasons for wishing to find another position, and in particular the bearing of the "Communist Oath" issue. Dr. Stanier long since signed the required affidavit, but accompanied it with his resignation to be effective if other members of the faculty were dismissed without regard to tenure or to the recommendations of the Faculty Committee on academic tenure and privilege. His resignation will take effect next July , although President Sproul has expressed the hope that it would be

withdrawn.

Dr. Stanier studied with van Niel at the Hopkins Marine Station, taking his Ph. D, from Stanford in 1942. He was associated during the war with the Canadian National Research Council, in connection with the production of penicillin and of butylene glycol. Subsequently, he has taught at the University of Indiana and of California, in their bacteriology departments. He is well known professionally for two rather different lines of work: an investigation of the physiology, morphology and taxonomy of the myxobacteria (particularly in relation to their attack on cellulose and other polysaccharides), and more recently the biochemical pathways of oxidation of aromatic compounds by pseudomonad bacteria. His prestige among his professional colleagues is signalized by his receipt of the Lilly award of the Society of American Bacteriologists. From this one may also correctly surmise that he has just passed thirty-five.

Please do not interpret this letter as an attempt to promote a position for Stanier. He has received a number of attractive offers the bald content of which the University of Wisconsin probably would not wish to match. For much the same reasons as my own, however, I think that he would attach considerable weight to the less tangible advantages of working at our University.

I would probably be overstepping proper bounds to suggest more than that a place might be found here for someone with Stanier's qualifications. For this reason, this letter is addressed to you in your capacity as Dean of the Graduate School.

Yours respectfully,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics